

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SP-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15

SAJ-01 AGR-20 DRC-01 /178 W
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R 031658Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8755

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, DA

SUBJECT: FURTHER DANISH REACTIONS TO CALLAGHAN EC
COUNCIL SPEECH

REF: COPENHAGEN 894

SUMMARY: BOTH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND DANISH PRESS
MAINTAIN POSTURE OF CALCULATED MODERATION REGARDING
CALLAGHAN RENEGOTIATION SPEECH MONDAY. MUCH OF FOCUS
IS ON EFFECTS BRITISH TREATY RENEGOTIATION OR, AT
WORST, WITHDRAWAL WOULD HAVE ON DANISH POSITION IN
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EC. MOST EITHER AVOID ISSUE OR SUGGEST THAT NEW

DANISH REFERENDUM "NOT NECESSARILY" CALLED FOR. IVAR NORGAARD, FORMER FONECONMIN, HOWEVER, STILL INSISTS HE WILL LEAD SOCIAL DEMOCRATS INTO CALL FOR REFERENDUM SHOULD THERE BE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN COMMUNITY FROM THAT PREVAILING AT TIME OF PREVIOUS REFERENDUM. LEADER OF RADICAL LIBERALS (BAUNSGAARD) HAS NOW PUBLICLY TAKEN SIMILAR POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR OLE BIERRING TOLD DCM APRIL 3 THAT DANES ARE DELIBERATELY MAINTAINING MODERATE RESPONSE TO CALLAGHAN EC TREATY RENEGOTIATION DEMANDS BECUASE THEY BELIEVE COMPROMISES ARE POSSIBLE AND, ABOVE ALL, WANT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSURE UK REMAINS IN COMMUNITY. BIERRING SHARED VIEWS EXPRESSED PUBLICLY BY FONMIN GULDBERG, AT LEAST ONE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY LEADER, AND OTHERS THAT CHANGES IN BRITISH RELATIONS WITH COMMUNITY, INCLUDING POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL, WOULD NOT NECESSARILY REQUIRE NEW DANISH REFERENDUM. BIERRING ALSO THOUGHT THAT, EVEN IF BRITISH SUCCEED IN RENEGOTIATING SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH COMMUNITY, DENMARK WOULD NOT DO SO SINCE IT IS QUITE HAPPY WITH ITS PLACE IN COMMUNITY AS IT IS. PM HARTLING'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER (GOTTLIEB) EXPRESSED MUCH THE SAME VIEWS TO POLOFF, EMPHASIZING NEED FOR COMPROMISE AND ADDING THAT DENMARK COULD NOT TOLERATE BEING PUT INTO POSTION OF CHOOSING BETWEEN LONDON AND PARIS ANY MORE THAN IT WOULD WANT TO BE FACED WITH CHOICE BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE U.S.

2. IN FURTHER COMMENTS TO THE PRESS IN LUXEMBOURG, FONMIN GULDBERG REITERATED DENMARK'S COMMITMENTS TO OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS IT HAD ACCEPTED WITH TREATY SIGNING. WHILE HE DID NOT REJECT POSSIBILITY OF BRITISH WITHDRAWAL, HE FELT QUESTION HYPOTHETICAL FOR NOW AND IN ANY EVENT ONE WHICH WOULD NOT ARISE UNTIL AFTER A NEW BRITISH ELECTION. OTHERS, INCLUDING FORMER PM JORGENSEN, EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM THAT PROBLEMS WOULD BE WORKED OUT AND THAT BRITISH, IN THE END, WOULD REALIZE COMMUNITY IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANT TO THEM ALSO. SEVERAL DEITORIALS WERE IN THE SAME VEIN, WITH ONE (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC DAILY -- AKTUEL) ADDING THAT BRITISH ARE REALLY MORE WORRIED OVER EUROPEAN (ESPECIALLY FRENCH) CONFLICT WITH US.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH ECONOFF, IVAR NORGAARD, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SPOKESMAN ON EC MATTERS AND FORMER FONECONMIN, REITERATED POSITION EXPRESSED PREVIOUSLY

(COPENHAGEN 716) THAT, IF BRITISH WITHDREW FROM EC, HE WOULD INSIST ON EW DANISH REFERENDUM AND WAS CERTAIN HE WOULD HAVE HIS PARTY'S SUPPORT AND A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. HE ADDED THAT THIS WOULD ALSO BE THE CASE IF BRITISH RENEGOTIATED AND GOT A BETTER DEAL. LEADER OF RADICAL LIBERALS (AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER) HILMAR BAUNSGAARD HAS NOW SAID PUBLICLY THAT HIS PARTY WOULD INSIST ON INCREASED BENEFITS IF BRITISH GOT THEM AS WELL AS REFERENDUM TO RATIFY NEW ARRANGEMENTS.

4. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SERVANTS HOPE TO KEEP ISSUE RAISED BY BRITISH OUT OF PUBLIC DEBATE. REASSURING SOUNDS MADE BY GULDBERG, SO FAR, SUPPORTED BY PRESS, MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENT, AS OPPOSITION POLITICIANS ARE SNIFFING AROUND FOR ADVANTAGEOUS POSITIONS. IF RADICAL LIBERALS CALL FOR REFERENDUM, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WILL FEEL OBLIGED TO DO SO ALSO. DEATH OF POMPIDOU MAY BE HELPFUL IN TAKING FOCUS AWAY FROM RENEGOTIATION ISSUE FOR A TIME BUT, IF BRITISH PERSIST IN MAKING IT A MAJOR ISSUE, IT PROBABLY WILL RESULT IN THOROUGH RE-EXAMINATION OF DENMARK'S RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNITY ALSO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TRADE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COPENH00910
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740075-0853
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740471/aaaacnkf.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: COPENHAGEN 894
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER DANISH REACTIONS TO CALLAGHAN EC COUNCIL SPEECH
TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, DA, UK, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005